

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 47, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 48 to 54 have been canceled. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Therefore, there is no issue of new matter. In addition, the amendments to the independent claims add recitations that elaborate on the structure of the presently claimed invention, and, thus, do not affect the scope of the claims. The amendments only further clarify the claimed invention.

Applicants thus submit that the entire application is in condition for allowance, an early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicants' position, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues prior to the issuance of a further Office Action, and to expedite the allowance of the application.

No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. Should any fees be due, however, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By: Alan P. Force
Alan P. Force
Reg. No. 39,673
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200